

# SPECTRE

## OF INGLTON; OR THE FOREST MYSTERY.

By the author of "The Mystery of the Old House."

As they entered the garden, they found John waiting for them. He was standing in the middle of the path, looking at them with a smile.

"You are just in time," he said. "The dinner is ready."

"What a lovely day!" he exclaimed. "It is a pleasure to see you."

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chief. Ah, old fellow, I'll be square with you.

"If you are playing a trick, I'll not forget it."

"I wanted you on board of sunset when Harry

was out for the brook.

The appearance of a small stream about

a quarter of a mile to the east of the house

was a picturesque, romantic spot, and

attracted from any dwelling, and a most

pleasant place to sit. On one side, the

ground rose in hills, covered with evergreens,

and the farther looking pine; the other was

open country, gentle and undulating, with

all the variety of coloring, peculiar to the country.

Wild flowers of every hue, dipped their leaves in

the rippling water, and nodded playfully to the

whispering breeze, which rustled the leaves of the

willow, and the sweet-scented flowers of the

strawberry, while trailing over the soft sand,

was the stately myrtle, and the strawberry vine.

Harry remained leisurely along, absorbed in

reflection, as he reached the bank, where after

getting around for a few moments, he threw

himself upon the grass, to enjoy the

loveliness of the hour. The sun was just setting

behind the distant mountains, flushing them

with a rosy hue; tinging the sparkling water

with silver, while the clouds like guardian an-

gels, waiting to receive the weary soul in their

embrace, hovered above him, tinted with all

the molting colors of the rainbow. In the East,

far, far, in the distance, above the twilight,

enveloping the earth, in its gentle fold.

The birds twittered overhead, as they hastened

to their rest; the murmur of the insects faintly

and dreamily upon the ear, while the zo-

ophy moved noiselessly among the flower bells,

invigorating and soothing to rest. There was

grandeur, sublimity in the scene, and Harry did

not get unmoved upon it a beauty.

"How mean," he exclaimed, "is man! how

indefinite his works, compared with Him

who gave the coloring to this scene; whose

hand created nature! Where is the painter

who could portray her, as she is now, in the

midst of the vastness of nature? How great must

be the mind of the Creator, to create the

Universe; how small a man in the

glorious world! When I dwell on the works

of God, I feel my littleness, and yet I am

permitted to enjoy the mighty creations of his will.

My God! I cannot portray the infinite majesty,

the wonderful grace, the incomprehensible wis-

dom with which my weak brain invests these

things! Is speech, poor my powers to give ac-

cuse to the things of God?

Lower sank the sun, onward stole the twilight

and in the contemplation of Nature, Harry had

forgotten the question that had called him to

the brook; he still reclined with his face to the

West, when he was startled by a crushing of

the grass behind him, and he was about to spring

to his feet, when a wild cry arrested the motion.

The next instant he heard a heavy fall, and

he sprang up. What was his astonishment, at

the spectacle before him!

Directly in front of him lay the form of a

man, while another, enveloped in a heavy black

mantle, was kneeling upon his breast; at a short

distance from them, her hands stretched forward,

in an attitude half of supplication, half of in-

stinct, stood a fair slight creature robed in

white, her broad brimmed hat had fallen from

her head, and she trembled some pleading an-

gel, as the evening breeze toyed with her golden

ringlets, and kissed her snowy brow. Near her

was a youth, bold and manly looking, who also

seemed spell-bound where he stood. Harry's

eyes rested upon them, and a glow told him

it was Virginia Remond and her brother.

A stern voice at his feet attracted his atten-

tion.

"If I spare your life, will you answer my

questions?"

"Yes, massa, I will! only spare the child dis

heart. O, de Lord! my bruff is almost gone."

"Pardon me."

"Yes, yes, only give me the child."

The stranger arose from the chest of the fal-

len man, who quickly gained his feet.

"Go on!" he said, and he took a pistol to his

head, and before Harry could question the meaning

of the strange circumstance, they had disappeared

in the waiting light. It happened to where Vir-

ginia Remond, in the same terrible position.

"Miss Remond."

"You are saved!" she said forward. He

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